



WISCONSIN PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM SHORTAGE AVOIDANCE & EMERGENCY PREPARATION

The Department of Natural Resources works with municipal water systems on an ongoing basis to ensure that water supplies are not depleted during drought or other emergencies – and that water systems are prepared in the event of an unforeseen emergency during which water from the public system is unavailable.

Emergency preparation

To assure people are provided safe drinking water, DNR works with communities to prepare for potential emergency situations and react should it be necessary. Activities include:

1. Requirements for sufficient supply and storage capacity. Systems are required to be able to meet peak demand with the largest pumping unit or well out of service. Systems commonly have enough storage to provide an average days demand. The Department has provided Safe Drinking Water loan funding for systems with insufficient capacity or storage.
2. Monthly reports are required to be submitted to the Department that include daily quantities of water pumped and weekly groundwater depth measurements, both static and pumping in each of the municipal wells. Submittal of the report to the Department ensures that system operators are aware of pump operations as well as providing a second opportunity for DNR to detect problems with pump operations.;
3. Routine maintenance is required for items such as well pumps to assure reliability;
4. Emergency response or operations plans are required and include: an emergency notification system, identified back up suppliers and mutual aid agreements for sharing of personnel, equipment, and other resources in the event of an emergency. Wisconsin Rural Water Association and Wisconsin Water Association offer professional training in the preparation of emergency action plans.
5. Table top exercises that simulate a variety of security issues are encouraged by the Department;
6. The WISWARN (Wisconsin Water & Wastewater Agency Response Network) system provides a mutual aid network between utilities;
7. The Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) provides technical assistance through their circuit riders along with a lending network for equipment.
8. Emergency restrictions, including lawn watering restrictions are based on local ordinances or emergency implementation plans.